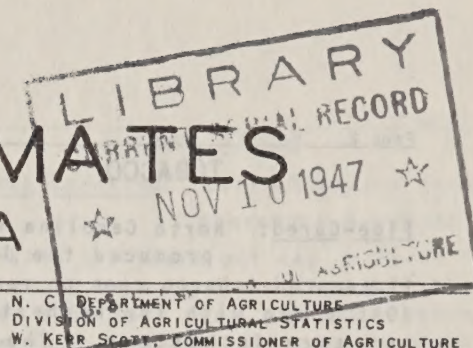


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AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES FOR NORTH CAROLINA



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
W. F. CALLANDER, ASSISTANT CHIEF

Cooperating through
The Crop Reporting Service

N. C. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
W. KERR SCOTT, COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

NO. 2

RALEIGH, N. C.

APRIL, 1947

APRIL GENERAL CROP REPORT

GENERAL: *Crops continue late.*

Weather remained unfavorable to crop progress throughout March and crops, generally, were from two to three weeks behind on April 1 as compared to a year ago. Land preparation was advanced in eastern districts, but was later than usual in the Piedmont and Mountain sections. In all sections, most fields still retained a mid-Winter appearance. Pastures were still brown, with trees showing little budding, and practically no blooming. Despite the lateness of the season, farmers, with the exception of commercial truck crop growers, expect a normal crop year. With a few days of warm sunny weather, they predict that crops will make rapid recovery. Temperatures during the first week in April were conducive to rapid crop growth.

Wheat: *Large Production Expected.*

Conditions in North Carolina's wheat producing sections on April 1 indicated a production of 7,804,000 bushels from the 1947 crop. This would be 24 percent larger than the 1946 crop of 6,307,000 bushels and 21 percent above the 10-year (1936-45) average of 6,456,000 bushels. Since growers can hardly expect to equal the all-time record high yield of 17.0 bushels per acre harvested last year, this year's indicated increase in production is attributed to a sharp increase in the acreage planted for harvest in 1947. Growth of the crop was from two to three weeks behind normal on April 1. This lateness, however, was not as much concern to growers as the shortage of nitrogen for top-dressing. Much of the retarded growth may be overcome provided April weather is favorable.

Other Small Grain: *Oats and barley that were sown*

last fall were killed back more severely than usual, due to the fact that the crop had made too heavy a growth prior to killing freezes. There is ample moisture in the soil and with the return of warm weather, the small grain crops in the State should make rapid growth.

Grain Stocks

on Farms: *Near 1946 level.*

Stocks of all grains on North Carolina farms April 1 were approximately the same as for a year earlier. Increases in holdings of wheat, oats, and barley were almost off-set by declines in stocks of corn and rye below the April 1, 1946 level. Wheat stocks were estimated at 946,000 bushels, or 4 percent larger than last year. Corn stocks at 26430000 bushels, were down 7 percent; oats at 2,188,000 bushels, up 12 percent; barley at 148,000 bushels, up 30 percent; rye at 25,000 bushels, down 46 percent and soybeans at 1,030,000 bushels, up 27 percent above a year earlier.

Milk Production: *Record per Cow.*

Milk production per cow in herds for March was estimated at 330 pounds, and was the highest for any March on record. Grain fed per milk cow averaged 5.6 pounds on April 1, 1947 and 5.4 pounds on the same date in 1946. Pasture condition was reported at 76 percent of normal compared with 88 percent a year earlier and the 10-year average of 80 percent.

Egg Production: *Lower Rate per Layer*

March egg production per 100 layers was estimated at 1,472 eggs or 22 less than the March 1946 rate of 1,494 eggs per 100 layers. Total monthly egg production, at 123 million, was 5 percent lower than the 130 million eggs produced during the same period a year ago.

TRUCK CROPS

Beets: *Prospects are very poor for the North Carolina crop.*

Weather conditions have been very unfavorable for beets. Heavy damage has come to young plants from continued cold weather followed by severe winds during the last week of March. Acreage planted this year is estimated to be about that of 1946, or about 27 percent above the 10-year average of 220 acres. Expected yields for North Carolina are estimated at 160 bushels per acre in comparison with 220 bushels per acre in 1946 and a 10-year average of 215 bushels per acre.

Cabbage: North Carolina's cabbage crop was seriously damaged and retarded by the unseasonably cold Spring weather. As of April 1 plants had not started to continue growth from transplanting. Stands are uneven. The crop is about 15 days later than normal. Planted acreage in North Carolina is estimated to be 1,800 acres this year as compared to 1,650 acres, or 9 percent higher than last year and 13 percent above the 10-year average of 1,590 acres. Reports of poor crop conditions appear to be general throughout the surrounding producing States. The total estimated acreage of late Spring cabbage is 11,350 acres as compared with 12,890 acres in 1946; this is 3 percent above the 10-year average of 10,990 acres.

Lettuce: Growers expect one of the poorest harvests in years. Weather conditions continued unfavorable for early growth of the lettuce crop as of April 1. Low temperatures and high winds caused considerable plant damage. The crop is from two to three weeks later than last year. Acreage in North Carolina is estimated to be about 7 percent less than last year, or about 1,300 acres as compared with 1,400 acres in 1946. The acreage for South Carolina is estimated at 1,200 acres as compared with 1,700 acres in 1946. The total acreage from all producing areas is estimated at 53,650 acres as compared with 64,200 acres in 1946. (See back page.)

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TOBACCO

Flue-Cured: North Carolina farmers produced the largest flue-cured tobacco crop on record in 1946 along with the highest yield per acre in history. The total acreage harvested was the second largest on record and returned growers over 890 million pounds of leaf.

The trend since the depression of the early thirties has been higher yields along with greater total production. Since 1932, the yield per acre has been above 800 pounds with the exception of 1933 and 1936 when the yields per acre were 794 and 765 pounds respectively. For four out of the past five years, the per acre yield has exceeded 1000 pounds of leaf, reaching the peak of 1117 pounds in 1946.

During the past 25 years, the trend in flue-cured acreage has been upward. However, in 1921, 1932, and 1940 there were serious acreage setbacks due to abnormal conditions affecting tobacco. In 1921 and 1932, the harvested acreage was only 414,900 and 462,500 acres respectively. Acreage curtailment from 1940 to 1943 interrupted, temporarily, the upward production trend which has been so pronounced since the early thirties. The year 1939 set the all-time high of flue-cured acreage when North Carolina farmers harvested a total of 843,000 acres. No controls were in effect that year.

Faced with increased demand and high prices during the war years, North Carolina tobacco growers applied their efforts toward higher yields, and thereby greater production from their allotted acreage. New emphasis was placed on such things as heavier application of fertilizers, more careful selection of land on the farm, use of improved strains of disease resistant varieties, and higher topping to include more leaves for harvest. Quality of leaf was not a primary consideration, so growers concentrated more on volume to meet the increased demand brought on by the war.

The increased efforts have been beneficial to North Carolina farmers from a financial stand-point, for during the war years, growers received record high prices. The post-war price trend continues at a high level, as evidenced by the 1946 flue-cured crop which was marketed at prices averaging higher than those in 1945.

On March 1, reports from about 2500 growers indicated that they expected to plant 809,000 acres this year, or 1.5 percent more than the 797,000 acres harvested in 1946.

COTTON

With cotton planting time at hand, farmers in the South are thinking about what the cotton picture will be in the months ahead.

Cotton stocks in this country are at one of the lowest points in recent years. At the end of January there were only about 9.1 million bales, a third less than a year ago. Yet domestic cotton mills alone will probably use a half million bales more than last year. And though exports will be much smaller than last year, total disappearance of United States cotton will be some 4½ million bales above last year's production. The carry-over next August will thus be the lowest since 1929, only 3 million bales.

This is why the goals ask farmers to plant 23.1 million acres, one of the largest in recent years. An acreage of this size is needed (assuming average yields) in order to keep mills supplied at present levels and to export something near present shipments.

Of interest to farmers in certain cotton-growing areas is the fact that the supply of low grade cotton has been reduced rapidly since the end of the war. In the markets discounts for low-grade cotton have narrowed considerably in the last several weeks.

POULTRY

Commercial Hatchery: The revised monthly estimates of chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries in North Carolina are shown in the table below. The State's 1946 production totaled 35,160,000 chicks, and was eight percent below the 1945 production of 38,114,000 chicks. The high feed prices, which were prevalent during 1946, decreased the demand somewhat for broiler chicks.

CHICKENS HATCHED BY COMMERCIAL HATCHERIES NORTH CAROLINA, 1946

MONTH	NO. CHICKS HATCHED	MONTH	NO. CHICKS HATCHED
	(000)		(000)
JAN.	1,976	JULY	1,229
FEB.	4,565	AUG.	901
MARCH	7,049	SEPT.	711
APRIL	7,237	OCT.	808
MAY	5,444	NOV.	1,796
JUNE	2,188	DEC.	1,256
TOTAL FOR YEAR 35,160			

Chickens: Chickens down 13 percent.

Chicken production on North Carolina farms amounted 19,135,000 birds in 1946, or 13 percent less than the previous year. In addition, 14,711,000 commercial broilers were produced. The income from these broilers was \$13,780,000.

TURKEYS:

Production: North Carolina farmers produced a total of 416,000 turkeys in 1946. This is 12 percent above the previous year's crop of 371,000 birds. Of the total birds produced during 1946, 16,000 were consumed in the farm household, and 395,000 were sold. The number sold averaged 16.6 pounds live weight, or almost a pound heavier than the 15.7 pounds live weight averaged for turkeys sold in 1945.

Income: In 1946, turkey growers in North Carolina sold a total of 6,557,000 pounds of turkey for an average of 41 cents per pound, or a total of \$2,688,000. The 268,000 pounds consumed in farm household was valued at 109,000 dollars. By adding the value of turkeys consumed in farm household and sold, we get a total gross income of \$2,797,000 for the 1946 turkey crop.

ANNUAL MILK PRODUCTION

At the beginning of 1946, monthly milk production was 3 percent below the corresponding month of 1945. Monthly production in 1946 stayed below the 1945 level until April, falling below the 1945 level again in October. However, the 1946 production was above the 10 year (1935-44) average for all months.

Compared with 1945, there were about 3 percent fewer milk cows on farms in 1946, but the average 1946 production per cow was 100 pounds above the 1945 milk production per cow. Thus the increase in average production per cow about offset the three percent drop in milk cow numbers and as a result, total milk production during 1946 was less than 1 percent under total production for 1945.

MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, NORTH CAROLINA 1945 AND 1946, 1935-44 AVERAGE

MONTH	1946	1945	AVERAGE (1935-44)
- Million Pounds -			
JANUARY	107	110	98
FEBRUARY	100	102	91
MARCH	119	120	105
APRIL	130	130	110
MAY	141	141	121
JUNE	140	140	124
JULY	144	142	130
AUGUST	143	141	130
SEPTEMBER	131	128	119
OCTOBER	123	124	113
NOVEMBER	108	111	103
DECEMBER	105	106	102
YEAR	1,491	1,495	1,346

FARM SIZE

Today's farms are bigger, more mechanized, more productive than 25 years ago, or even five.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

NORTH CAROLINA:

Grains: Prices higher.

With the exception of barley North Carolina farmers received considerably more for grains in Mid-March than a month earlier. Barley held to last month's average of \$1.70 per bushel. Wheat averaged \$2.53 per bushel or 32 cents higher than a month ago. Corn, oats, and rye averaged \$1.69, \$1.15, and \$2.49 per bushel, respectively.

Meat Animals: Record hog prices.

North Carolina farmers received an average of \$24.00 per cwt. for hogs on March 15, and the highest price on record. The mid-month hog price was up \$3.30 from the previous month and \$1 per cwt. above the mid-November 1946 average price. Beef cattle gained 60 cents per cwt. and averaged \$15.10 with veal calves and lambs showing increases of 80 and 20 cents respectively, as compared to a month ago. Sheep prices were the same as last month.

Dairy Products: North Carolina

farmers received an average of \$5.45 for milk (wholesale per cwt.) on March 15, or 10 cents less than a month ago. Milk (retail per Qt.) was selling at 18 cents, the same as a month ago. Butter averaged 56 cents per pound and showed no change from the previous month.

UNITED STATES:

During the month ending March 15, prices received by farmers averaged 3 percent higher than the record of last October with a 7 percent increase above the previous month. Meanwhile, farmers' living and production cost continued to rise and exceeded previous record level of February 15 by 4 percent. Higher prices paid for food, feed, and building materials caused most of this increase. Higher meat animal prices caused slightly more than a third of the general rise in prices received, and grains nearly as much. Dairy products and tobacco showed little or no change.

The National average price received by farmers for wheat rose from \$1.99 per bushel to \$2.44 during the month. Hog prices rose from an average of \$23.80 to \$26.40.

An increase of 1.33 cents per pound in the prices received by farmers for cotton on March 15, raised the index to 257 percent of the 1909-14 average.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
MARCH 15 WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT OF MEASURE	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES
		MAR. 15 1947	FEB. 15 1947	MAR. 15 1947
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
CORN	BU.	1.69	1.57	1.50
WHEAT	BU.	2.53	2.21	2.44
OATS	BU.	1.15	1.10	.89
BARLEY	BU.	1.70	1.70	1.44
RYE	BU.	2.49	2.35	2.81
COTTON	LB.	.332	.313	.319
COTTONSEED	TON	88.00	87.00	88.00
HOGS	100 LBS.	24.00	20.70	26.40
BEEF CATTLE	100 LBS.	15.10	14.50	18.50
VEAL CALVES	100 LBS.	18.00	17.20	20.20
SHEEP	100 LBS.	8.50	8.50	8.28
LAMBS	100 LBS.	18.00	17.80	20.00
CHICKENS	LB.	.280	.260	.266
EGGS	DOZ.	.423	.448	.401
MILK:				
WHOLESALE -	100 LBS.	*5.45	5.55	4.34
RETAIL -	QT.	.180	.180	.171
BUTTER	LB.	.56	.56	.648
BUTTERFAT	LB.	.60	.60	.735
PEANUTS	LB.	.10	.095	.099
SOYBEANS	BU.	2.75	2.70	3.67
COWPEAS	BU.	4.60	4.25	4.40
HAY ALL LOOSE	TON	26.00	25.20	17.40
HAY ALL BALED	TON	32.50	32.00	
WOOL	LB.	.47	.47	.405
POTATOES	BU.	1.65	1.60	1.39
S. POTATOES	BU.	2.35	2.30	2.35
APPLES COMM.	BU.	3.30	3.10	2.93
LESPEDEZA SEED	100 LBS.	9.90	9.90	8.29

* Preliminary

PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

NORTH CAROLINA

On March 15, North Carolina farmers were paying higher average prices for most commodities they had to buy than a month earlier. Higher feed prices were reported in local markets patronized by farmers during the month ended March 15. With the exception of cottonseed meal, which showed no change, prices paid by farmers for feeds on March 15 were up from 5 to 30 cents per hundred pounds over the previous mid-month price. The table on prices paid, shows that farmers were paying considerably more for feeds on March 15 than for feeds on the same date last year.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY NORTH CAROLINA
FARMERS MARCH 15, 1946-47

COMMODITY AND UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	MAR. 15 1947	MAR. 15 1946	MAR. 15 1947	MAR. 15 1946
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
BRAN, PER CWT.	3.30	2.95	3.87	2.45
MIDDLINGS, PER CWT.	3.45	3.00	3.23	2.47
CORN MEAL, PER CWT.	5.20	4.50	3.75	3.07
COTTONSEED MEAL, PER CWT.	4.25	2.90	4.48	3.14
SOYBEAN MEAL, PER CWT.	4.30	3.20	4.47	3.18
MIXED DAIRY FEED:				
16 PCT-PROTEIN, PER CWT.	3.80	3.20	3.68	3.08
18 PCT-PROTEIN, PER CWT.	4.10	3.40	3.79	3.35
20 PCT-PROTEIN, PER CWT.	4.15	3.50	3.88	3.40
LAYING MASH, PER CWT.	4.90	4.15	4.46	3.75
SCRATCH FEED, PER CWT.	4.60	3.90	4.20	3.54
TANKAGE, PER CWT.	6.50	4.45	6.03	4.27

FARM LABOR

North Carolina: North Carolina farm operators averaged

working 9.9 hours per day on March 1 or .5 of an hour less than for the same date last year. Hired workers averaged working 8.5 hours as compared to 8.7 hours on March 1, 1946.

South Atlantic States: For the South Atlantic States as a whole, the average

working day on farms, although still long, was shorter than on March 1, 1946. Farm operators averaged working 10.6 hours per day, and hired workers 8.8 hours, continuing the down trend of the last three years.

United States: A total of 8,591,000 people were working on farms on March 1. This total is 4 percent larger than a year ago, and up seasonally from February 1.

SHIFT IN FARM POWER

The shift in farm power from horses and mules to machines is reflected in the postwar figures. In 1946 the number of horses and mules was 30 percent below the pre-war (1935-39) average. In contrast, the number of tractors was up 108 percent, and motor trucks, many of them second-hand, were up 59 percent. With the exception of tractors and motor vehicles, the volume of all machinery and equipment doubled. Many farm machines are old. For instance, estimate is that 400,000 tractors are past normal discarding age. With output of farm machinery in latter 1946 running 25 percent above 1945, probability is for further increase on farms in 1947.

FARM TENANCY AT LOW EBB

The 1945 census (preliminary) shows only 32 percent of American farms run by tenants and croppers. This compares with 39 percent back in 1940 and a high of 42 percent in the thirties. The South shows a large decrease, with a drop of 280,000 in tenant farms. This leaves about 40 percent of southern farms run by tenants in 1945. The North had 25 percent tenancy, and the West 15 percent.

BIG BUSINESS

American farmers have the largest business in the world. Their land, buildings, machinery, equipment, livestock, and crops on hand were worth over 90 billion dollars in 1946. They produce a wide variety of products each year, valued at about 25 billion dollars last year.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this publication is to provide current agricultural estimates for North Carolina. It is to replace some of the releases in a more combined and attractive form. Highlights may be readily found on several different subjects in this "Digest". Users may find this advantageous in planning their operations and in keeping themselves abreast of the current situation in regard to the agricultural prospects.

This information is collected through thousands of voluntary reporters who give the situation for their communities. These are averaged together to represent a very complete picture for the State. Without the loyal help of these reporters, it would be impossible to provide this service.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Crop Reporting Service
RALEIGH, N. C.

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(Truck Crops Cont.)

Yields are expected to be considerably below those of recent years. Present estimates are about 60 crates per acre. This is 67 percent less than the yield of 180 crates per acre in 1946, and 32 percent less than the 10-year average of 88 crates per acre. Total production for early Spring States is estimated at 7,490,000 crates as compared with 8,391,000 crates in 1946. Lateness and poor harvest prospects are general throughout the adjoining southeastern States.

Strawberries: Reports from growers, supported by contacts in the field, point to an increase in planted acreage of about 9 percent above 1946, or about 2400 acres as compared to 2,200 acres in 1946. The crop is 15 to 20 days late. Earlier unseasonable growth was "killed back" by freezes and Red Spider Mite, all of which will contribute to the anticipated lower yields. Unless favorable weather conditions bring about considerable recovery of plants, expected yields are estimated to be about 65 crates per acre as compared with 80 crates last year and the 10-year average of 85 crates per acre.

The total acreage of strawberries for all States of the Mid-Spring group is estimated at 43,950 acres as compared to 37,450 acres last year.

Commercial Early

Irish Potatoes: Reports from growers of commercial early Irish Potatoes as of April 1, 1947, indicate that plantings this year will be about 28,600

acres as compared to 34,000 acres last year. Both weather and soil conditions have been very unfavorable to seed development and early plant growth. These factors have held up plantings; reports from growers indicate the plantings as being about 93 percent complete as of April 1. The 1946 yield was 225 bushels per acre as compared to the 10-year average of 132 bushels per acre.

The total acreage of early commercial Irish potatoes in the United States is estimated at 304,700 acres in comparison with 382,500 acres in 1946.

Peaches: Prospects Favorable. The condition of the peach crop on April 1 was reported at 87 percent of normal. The condition on the same date last year, when a fairly good crop was harvested, was 88 percent. The condition of peaches in the ten Southern States on April 1, along with comparative data for other years are shown in the table below.

PEACHES, CONDITION APRIL 1

STATE	AVERAGE (1936-45)	1945	1946	1947
- PERCENT -				
N. CAROLINA	78	92	88	87
S. CAROLINA	72	90	82	85
GEORGIA	70	85	78	78
FLORIDA	70	75	74	56
ALABAMA	68	87	76	74
MISSISSIPPI	71	81	76	72
ARKANSAS	67	84	85	78
LOUISIANA	72	80	74	73
OKLAHOMA	63	80	85	44
TEXAS	70	85	79	73
TOTAL OF 10 STATES	71	86	81	78

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR MARCH 1947*

General Weather: March 1947 was the second coldest March on record over much of North Carolina. Only March 1915 recorded lower average temperatures. The cold weather was the result of frequent invasions of cold continental air masses broken only by brief warm spells on the 5th, 14th and 23rd, and 24th. In Raleigh there were 4 days with mean temperatures above normal and 26 days with the temperatures below normal. Precipitation was adequate over most of the State, with a few stations near the southeast coast reporting heavy monthly totals.

A feature of the month's weather was the windstorm of the 25th-26th. A low pressure system moved into the lower Great Lakes on the morning of the 25th, and intensified considerably. Strong winds and gales were general over the Northeast, with storm conditions prevailing over coastal areas for three days or more. At Washington, N. C. persistent northwest winds caused the lowest river levels of the year. The same persistent northwest winds piled the waters of the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds against the outer banks.

Temperature: Temperatures averaged 5 to 7 degrees below the normal for the month. At Mt. Mitchell a low temperature of 1 below zero was reported on the 4th, and 3 above zero on the 26th.

*Developed in Regular Cooperation with
 the U. S. Weather Bureau -
 directed by
 C. E. Lamoureux, Meteorologist at State College